

Statement of the Foreign Office Spokesman

December 1, 1937

Two news items appearing in the Japan Advertiser of December 10 have coincidentally brought into sharp relief the contrasting attitudes of Japanese and the Chinese forces toward those things which are dear to mankind. One is the report of the New York Times correspondent in Nanking describing the utter destruction of that Chinese capital by the Chinese forces themselves. The report says that the correspondent was informed by neutral military observers who spent several days inspecting the war zone that the Chinese soldiers have been recklessly razing towns and villages surrounding Nanking, not only destroying cultural establishments and institutions representing billions of yuans of wealth accumulated by their ancestors and by the sweat of their own labour, but ruthlessly slaughtering innocent inhabitants who are simply bewildered by the vandalism of their own countrymen.

The other news item is the report concerning the advice which General Iwane Matsui, Commander of the Japanese forces in Shanghai area, sent to the Commander of the Chinese forces defending Nanking, in which the Japanese commander, expressing his desire of preserving intact the cultural and historic establishments in the ancient walled city out of respect to the civilization of the East, and preventing unnecessary sacrifice of human lives urged the Chinese to surrender peacefully.

Latest reports from the front say that the Chinese refused the Japanese advice. What this refusal will mean will become apparent as we get further news from the battlefield. But it is a pity that, by the stubborn and futile attempt of the Chinese forces to resist the onslaught of the besieging forces, tens of thousands of innocent people in that area, already deprived by their own soldiers of their homes and means of subsistence, are to be left to the mercy of the elements when the rigorous cold of the winter is approaching. That the Japanese forces will mete out thoroughgoing punishment to those recalcitrant Chinese forces is a foregone conclusion.

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C E R T I F I C A T E

Statement of Source and Authenticity

I, HAYASHI Kaoru, Chief of the Archives Section, Japanese Foreign Office, hereby certify that the document hereto attached in English consisting of three pages and entitled "Statement of the Foreign Office Spokesman. December 1, 1937", is an exact and true copy of an official document of the Japanese Foreign Office.

Certified at Tokyo,
on this 9th day of April 1947.

K. Hayashi
Signature of Official

Witness: K. Urabe

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情報部長談話

一九三七年十二月一日

十二月十日附ジャパン・アドバタイザー紙掲載の二つの記事は、期せずして人類に取つて貴重である物に對し、日又両軍が採つたものをあつて、よい對照を成す態度を甚だ鮮明に表はしてゐる。その一つの記事は、ニューヨーク・タイムズ南京特派員の報道であつて、中國軍自身でこの中國の首都を徹底的に破壊した事を記述してゐる。

其は該特派員が戦闘區域を数日間視察した。中立國觀戰武官から聞いて書いたものであるが、中國兵は、南京の周囲の都市村落を破壊し、彼等。祖先が又彼等自身汗を流して、蓄積した幾十億元の象徴たる文化施設を破壊した計りでなく、自國人の蠻行に唯まどろんでゐる無辜の住民を假借なく殺戮してゐるものである。

他の一つの記事は、上海方面日本軍司令官松井石根大將が南京防衛中國軍司令官

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に致した勸告の報道である。

右によると、松井司令官は、東洋文明の宝が
う、この舊い城廓都市内の文化的史的施設
を毀損する事なく其儘保存し度き由を述
べ、且無用なる人命の犠牲を無くし中國人が
平和裡に降服する事を促してゐる。

前線からの最近の報道によると、中國側は
日本側の勸告を拒否した相である。この拒否
が何を意味するかは、戦場からの續報を俟つ
て明瞭になるであらう。

然し中國軍が攻圍軍の猛襲に頑強では
あるが無益の抵抗を試みるために既に自國
兵に住む可き家及び資財を奪はれたその地
域の幾万無辜の民が、冬の嚴寒が近づいて
ゐる時、自然の儘に放置されねばならぬとは
憐れな事である。であるから日本軍は、か
る強情我慢の中國軍を、徹底的に膺懲
せねばなるまい。

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